

STATE OF ARIZONA
Government Information Technology Agency (GITA)

Rural Health Information Technology Adoption (RHITA) Grant Program
FY 2006-07

**Rural Health Information Technology Adoption
Grant Program**
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Responses to Written Questions posed to the Grant Officer
Questions 18 through 23

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Contact name: Brad Tritle
Strategic Initiatives Manager
Government Information Technology Agency (GITA)
100 N 15th Avenue, Suite 440
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Tel: (602) 364-4775
Fax: (602) 364-4799
Email: btritle@azgita.gov

Question 18:

Have there been any changes to the way funding will be distributed?

Yes. It has been determined by the General Accounting Office that the grants funds do lapse, and cannot stay in the hands of the granting organization (GITA) beyond June 30, 2008 (end of the State budget year). Therefore, GITA plans to disburse the award money up front, taking advantage of the clause on page 13 of the Guidance allowing us to do so if both parties agree. If an awardee prefers not to receive the monies up front, but prefers to be reimbursed, they will only be able to be reimbursed for work completed by June 30, 2007. Otherwise, if the entire award is disbursed up front, the work may be completed after June 30, 2007.

Question 19:

What are the timeline requirements for spending the money? Are there specific time limits or parameters for what constitutes a “planning” period and what constitutes the “implementation” period?

- a. For example, an agency may propose that three months of planning is needed to move into implementation and implementation will occur over a period of two years. Are those acceptable timelines?

Answer: We prefer the projects not extend beyond June 30, 2008.

Question 20:

Criterion 6 - Matching Funds or Cost-Sharing

In 2003, our facility embarked on a long term comprehensive information technology project, and this year we are budgeted to complete a related project. Our budgeted dollars take us only so far, and the RHITA grant would allow us to expand this project and make it more meaningful. Would these budgeted funds count as "Matching" or "Cost-Share" funds as suggested in this Criterion?

Answer: No, unfortunately. The Grant Guidance states the following:

“Matching funds for this program, if used in the application, must be in addition to and therefore supplement funds that would otherwise be made available for the stated program purpose.”

If monies have already been spent towards the purpose, they would also not qualify as matching funds.

Question 21:

Criterion 5 - Medically underserved area

Our facility is a regional health care center that serves a large portion of the State, thus, our service area includes several counties. In fact, 60% of our patient base is from outside the city where our facility is located. Shall we list each county in our regional service area, and average the scores in completing this section?

Answer: No, unfortunately. Though we understand the reasoning behind your question, per the Guidance, we have chosen to use the location of the actual facilities only as the scoring mechanism. You may average the scores of various locations of facilities.

Question 22:

RHITA Grant Deadline

Is there any possibility that the grant deadline of October 20 will be extended?

Answer: No. Not at this time.

Question 23:

Can you please explain again how to determine if someone is a rural entity?

Answer: It states the following in the Guidance:

Eligible applicants must have a patient base of which 50% or more live in rural Arizona, and must currently deliver health care from a facility owned or operated by the applicant that is located in rural Arizona. Rural Arizona is defined as meeting either of the following criteria:

- a) A county with a population of less than four hundred thousand persons according to the most recent United States decennial census.
- b) A census county division with less than fifty thousand persons in a county with a population of four hundred thousand or more persons according to the most recent United States decennial census

Therefore, if the facility and patient base are located in any county except Pima and Maricopa (the two counties with 400,000 persons or more), they are automatically designated as being in Rural Arizona. If the community where a patient or facility are located is within Pima or Maricopa counties, then the Census County Division population of that location must be determined. We have posted to our site a document showing how to determine populations of Census County Divisions.